

We claim:

1. A computerized prepress method for comprising:
5 sending log-on information regarding an administrative user from a first client computer to a server computer;
authenticating the administrative user at the server computer;
downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the first client computer;
using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document template;
10 sending the document from the first client computer to the server computer; and,
saving the document in an internal format at the server computer.
2. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, further comprising:
15 sending log-on information regarding a user from a second client computer to a server computer; and,
authenticating the user at the server computer.
3. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, further comprising:
20 downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the second client computer;
using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document consistent with the document template;
25 sending the document from the second client computer to the server computer;
saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;
translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;
and,
sending the document in the different format to a printer.
4. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, further comprising:
30 downloading a form having tags corresponding to criteria in the document template;
entering in information at the second client computer corresponding to the tags of the

forms;

replacing the criteria in the document template with the information entered to create a document based on the document template;

sending the document from the second client computer to the server computer;

5 saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;

translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;

and,

sending the document in the different format to a printer.

10 5. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through the Internet.

15 6. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through an intranet.

20 7. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein the first and the second client computers and the server computer are communicatively coupled to one another through an extranet.

25 8. The computerized prepress method of claim 2, wherein authenticating the user at the server computer comprises associating the user with at least one of a particular directory on the server computer on which the document template is stored, a set of defaults regarding fonts, colors, images and commands available to the user, and an authorization level selected from the group of authorization levels essentially comprising normal, administrator, and demonstration.

30 9. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the authoring program downloaded from the server computer to the first client computer is coded in a language selected

from the group essentially comprising Perl, Java, C++, C, and ActiveX.

10. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the document is selected from the group essentially comprising a business card, a letterhead, an envelope, and a brochure.

11. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the authoring program comprises a color palette area to select a color from a palette of colors.

12. The computerized prepress method of claim 11, wherein the palette of colors comprises the palette of colors available from one selected from the group essentially comprising Pantone, Toyo, Focaltone, and Tru-Match.

13. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein using the authoring program at the first client computer to create a document comprises sending desired text from the client computer to the server computer for translation into an image and sending the image from the server computer back to the first client computer.

14. The computerized prepress method of claim 13, wherein the image is in a format selected from the group essentially comprising GIF, TIFF, and JPEG.

15. The computerized prepress method of claim 13, wherein the image has a maximum resolution of 4:1.

16. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the document includes one or more images, at least one of the images being in a format selected from the group essentially comprising encapsulated PostScript, TIFF, GIF, and JPEG.

17. The computerized prepress method of claim 16, wherein at least one of the images has a maximum resolution of 1:1.

18. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein the different format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

19. The computerized prepress method of claim 1, wherein sending the document in the different format to the printer comprises generating an electronic mail for submission to the printer including an attachment comprising the document in the different format.

20. The computerized prepress method of claim 19, wherein the electronic mail is MIME-compliant.

21. A computerized prepress system comprising:

a server having stored thereon an authoring program to create a document template and a translation program to translate a document based on the document template to a suitable prepress format;

a first client downloading the authoring program from the server to create the document template, which is uploaded to the server;

a second client to create the document based on the document template, which is uploaded to the server for translation to the suitable prepress format; and,

a printer receiving the document as translated to the suitable prepress format from the server.

22. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the second client is to download the authoring program from the server to create the document based on the document template.

23. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the second client is to enter information in a form having tags corresponding to criteria of the document template, such that the criteria are replaced with the information to create the document based on the document template.

24. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the

second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through the Internet.

25. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through an intranet.

26. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server, the first and the second clients and the printer are communicatively coupled to one another through an extranet.

27. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an Internet world-wide-web server.

28. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an intranet world-wide-web server.

29. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the server comprises an extranet world-wide-web server.

30. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the first client in an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

31. The computerized prepress system of claim 30, wherein the browser program is selected from the group essentially comprising Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer.

32. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the client in an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

33. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program runs on the first client in an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

34. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program is coded

in a language selected from the group essentially comprising Perl, Java, C++, C, and ActiveX.

35. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the document is selected from the group essentially comprising a business card, a letterhead, an envelope, and a brochure.

36. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the authoring program comprises a color palette area to select a color from a palette of colors.

37. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the suitable prepress format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

38. The computerized prepress system of claim 21, wherein the printer receives the document from the server via an electronic mail to which the document is included as an attachment.

39. A client computer comprising:

a processor;

a computer-readable medium;

a communications device;

an operating environment program executed by the processor from the medium; and,

an authoring program downloaded from a server through the communications device and executed by the processor from the medium within the operating environment program,

such that the authoring program is used to create a document template from which a document is creatable, the document uploadable to the server through the communications device for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

40. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

41. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the communications device is selected from the

group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

42. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

43. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

44. The client computer of claim 39, wherein the operating environment program comprises an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

45. A client computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a communications device;
an operating environment program executed by the processor from the medium; and,
means for creating a document within the operating environment program based on a document template previously created by an authoring program downloaded from a server, such that the means for creating the document is uploaded to the server through the communications device for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

46. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the means comprises an authoring program to create the document based on the document template.

47. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

48. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the communications device is selected from the group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

49. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises an Internet world-wide-web browser program.

50. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises an intranet world-wide-web browser program.

51. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the operating environment program comprises an extranet world-wide-web browser program.

52. The client computer of claim 45, wherein the means comprises a program to enter information in a form having tags corresponding to criteria of the document template, such that the criteria are replaced with the information to create the document based on the document template.

53. A server computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a communications device;
an authoring program stored on the computer-readable medium for downloading through the communications device and use by a client to create a document template to be utilized to create a document; and,
a translation program executed by the processor from the computer-readable medium to translate the document to a suitable prepress format and send the document as translated to a printer through the communications device.

54. The server computer of claim 53, wherein the computer-readable medium is selected from the group essentially comprising memory and a nonvolatile storage medium.

55. The server computer of claim 53, wherein the communications device is selected from the group essentially comprising a modem and a network card.

56. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for downloading to a client computer from a server computer and for execution on the client computer within an operating environment program, the program comprising means for creating a document template to be utilized to create a document, which is uploaded to the server through a communications device for translation to a suitable prepress format and submission to a printer.

57. A computer-readable medium having a computer program stored thereon for execution on a server computer, the program comprising:

means downloadable to a client computer for creating a document template to be utilized to create a document; and,

means for translating the document to a suitable prepress format and for sending the document as translated to a printer through a communications device of the server computer.

58. A computerized prepress method for comprising:
sending log-on information regarding a user from a client computer to a server computer;
authenticating the user at the server computer;
downloading an authoring program from the server computer to the client computer;
using the authoring program at the client computer to create a document;
sending the document from the client computer to the server computer;
saving the document in an internal format at the server computer;
translating the document from the internal format to a different suitable prepress format;
and,
sending the document in the different format to a printer.

59. The method of claim 58, wherein the different format is selected from a group essentially comprising XML, PostScript, HTML, PDF, and PostScript Extreme.

60. A computerized prepress system comprising:
a server having stored thereon an authoring program to create a document and a translation program to translate the document to a suitable prepress format;

